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LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As instructed, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement made on 24 March 1994 at a press briefing in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in connection with the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the text of the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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Annex

Statement made on 24 March 1994 at a press briefing in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

The question of the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a source of growing concern and anxiety. In keeping with its steadfast and consistent adherence to the non-proliferation Treaty and its determination not to permit the emergence of hotbeds of tension - particularly nuclear - on its borders, the Russian Federation is in favour of a comprehensive settlement of the situation.

First. We are prepared to support the resolution currently under consideration in the Security Council, which calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its obligations vis-à-vis the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the non-proliferation Treaty. We shall urge the Security Council to take decisive measures in all other situations involving the threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, without applying a double standard.

Second. Bearing in mind the fact that the negotiations have been unsuccessful, we consider attempts to solve problems at the bilateral level to be insufficient. We propose a multilateral approach, the focal point of which could be an international conference with the participation of the Russian Federation, China, the United States of America, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, and representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Director-General of IAEA. That would be the most logical format for the conference, since the above-mentioned countries are situated in the Korean peninsula or in its immediate vicinity and are capable of playing a special role in a settlement.

The agenda for the conference should lead to multifaceted linkages that take into account the legitimate interests of all the parties involved. In particular, topics for discussion and agreement could include the question of guarantees of the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, the promotion of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula with international guarantees of its non-nuclear status, including appropriate international monitoring, and guarantees of non-interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

We are convinced that only this approach will make it possible to find mutually acceptable and balanced solutions that strengthen the non-proliferation regime and at the same time prevent a slide towards confrontation.